

**Regular Meeting
Jasper Plan Commission
June 6, 2012**

President Brad Schnarr called the Regular Meeting of the Jasper Plan Commission to order at 7:30 pm. Secretary Bernita Berger took roll call as follows:

Brad Schnarr, Pres.	-Present	Cindy Laake	-Present
Jim Schroeder, V.P.	-Present	Pat Lottes	-Present
Bernita Berger, Sec.	-Present	Martin Loya	-Absent
Bob Wright	-Present	Chad Hurm, Engineer	-Present
Randy Mehringer	-Present	Darla Blazey, Bldg. Comm./Zoning Administrator	-Present
Ben Krapf	-Present	Atty. Bill Shaneyfelt	-Present
Kevin Manley	-Absent		

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Schnarr led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of the May 2, 2012, Regular Meeting were reviewed. Cindy Laake made a motion to approve the minutes as mailed. It was seconded by Randy Mehringer. Motion carried 9-0.

STATEMENT

President Schnarr read the following statement. "We are now ready to begin the public hearings scheduled for this evening. With respect to tonight's meeting and public hearings, we are hereby incorporating by reference into the record of tonight's meeting and public hearings, City of Jasper Ordinance Number 1993-17, entitled "Zoning Ordinance of the City of Jasper, Indiana and its jurisdictional area" and any and all amendments thereto, and the City of Jasper Comprehensive Plan. Audio and videotapes of these proceedings are also incorporated by reference into this evening's record."

OLD BUSINESS

Petition of Todd Kerstiens and Jerome Kerstiens of Kerstiens Development, Inc., as developers, and Robert A. and Mary Jane Durcholz as owners for secondary approval of the proposed plat of Wind Song Estates II, an addition to the City of Jasper, Indiana, and for approval of all proposed necessary street profiles and utility improvements associated with said subdivision.

Randy Mehringer made a motion to table the public hearing until next month's meeting scheduled for July 5, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. Pat Lottes seconded it. Motion carried 9-0.

Jeff Tunks, Ann Neal Corp.

President Schnarr gave the Board an update on the non-compliance issue regarding a painted sign on the side of a warehouse located on the property of Norm's Market and Jasper City Bakery, 600 Truman Road. The sign was recently painted on the building before following the proper procedure by applying for a sign permit and requesting a variance due to the sign's size.

Jeff Tunks, representing Ann Neal Corp., was advised at last month's meeting to remove the sign or cover it by no later than Wednesday, May 16, 2012. If the sign was not in compliance by that date, a fine would have been issued at \$100/day, starting May 17, 2012, for each day the sign remained in non-compliance. However, the sign was covered on May 16, 2012.

NEW BUSINESS

Jasper Chamber of Commerce and Jasper Action Team – Sign Committee.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Nancy Eckerle appeared before the Board on behalf of the Jasper Chamber of Commerce and the Jasper Action Team to share that the committee has been reviewing the City's sign ordinance. Ms. Eckerle explained that although the committee is not looking to make a lot of changes, its main purpose is to allow the language of the ordinance to be more user-friendly.

Building Commissioner, Darla Blazey is also a member of the committee. Ms. Blazey said she has been researching sign ordinances in other cities of similar size and has found that some of the other communities include specific lists of the kinds of businesses that fall under a certain rule and states which ones are exempt. The City of Jasper's does not specify such a list.

Also noted was that during a survey conducted by the committee, some people did not realize a sign permit was needed before erecting a sign. Ms. Eckerle said the Chamber, along with input from Ms. Blazey is putting together a package of information to give to people interested in establishing businesses in the city, and the permit process will be included in that packet.

Attorney Bill Shaneyfelt was in agreement of the sign ordinance being more user-friendly in its language, however, he said there are certain parts that need to be stated in a specific way to avoid disputes. He suggested that the committee 'get the policy the way they want it' and have it reviewed by legal counsel before adopting it into ordinance.

When the new ordinance review is complete, the committee will present its proposal to the Plan Commission and Common Council. Public hearings will be held and at that time, allowing the public a chance to give any input.

Plan Commission Workshop

Building Commissioner Darla Blazey passed out an informational packet to Board members that she received regarding two workshops, 'The Nitty Gritty Work of Plan Commissions' to be held on Monday, July 9, 2012 and 'Getting Good Planning in Your Community' to be held on Tuesday, July 10, 2012. Ms. Blazey said if anyone is interested in attending, they should fill out the registration form presented to them and return it to Kathy Pfister in the Planning Department no later than Friday, June 29, 2012.

With no further discussion, Ben Krapf made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Secretary Berger seconded it. Motion carried 9-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Brad Schnarr, President

Bernita Berger, Secretary

Kathy M. Pfister, Recording Secretary